

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/817,365
Amendment filed September 19, 2005
Reply to OA dated June 27, 2005

REMARKS

Claims 7 - 11 are allowed. Claims 2 and 3 have are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.
Claims 1 and 4 - 13 are currently pending in this patent application.

Claims 1 and 4 have been amended in order to more particularly point out, and distinctly claim the subject matter to which the applicants regard as their invention. The applicants respectfully submit that no new matter has been added. It is believed that this Amendment is fully responsive to the Office Action dated June 27, 2005.

The applicants thank the Examiner for further indicating that claims 4 and 5 contain allowable subject matter, and would be allowable if rewritten in the manner suggested in items 6 and 7, respectively, on page 3 of the outstanding Action.

However, claims 1, 2, 12 and 13 stand rejected under 35 USC §112, first paragraph, for the specific reasons set forth in item 2, page 2 of the outstanding Action. The applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this rejection.

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With respect to independent claim 1, because the amendments to independent claim 1 was intended to include therein the allowable subject matter of claim 4, the applicant have deleted the last clause of claim 1, in its entirety. In place of the deleted clause, the applicants have substituted in place therefor, the last clause of allowed claim 4.^{1/}

As to rejected claim 2, in order to expedite the processing of this patent application to issuance, the applicants have canceled claim 2 without prejudice or disclaimer.

With respect to claim 6, the applicant submit that claim 6 clearly depends on allowable claim 4, and should be similarly allowable. Also, the term “symmetric” is sufficiently broad to have the language of claim 6 directed to the embodiment covered in claim 4 from which claim 6 depends.

In view of the above, the withdrawal of the outstanding rejection under 35 USC §112, first paragraph, is in order, and is therefore respectfully solicited.

^{1/} See, in item 8, page 4 of the Office Action dated November 4, 2003 concerning the reasons for the Examiner's allowance of claim 4, the reasons being set forth below as follows:

[t]he prior art does not disclose a pair of seal rings each having lip portions disposed and protruding in opposite directions, and a load seal ring compressed and inserted between the seal rings, wherein one of the rings has an outer-diameter body and the other has an inner diameter body.

Emphasis added.

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Claims 4 and 5 stand rejected under 35 USC §112, second paragraph, due to certain informalities in the language of claim 4, which the Examiner deemed needed correction, as set forth in item 4, pages 2 and 3 of the outstanding Action. The applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this rejection.

As indicated above, claim 4 has been amended in order to more particularly point out, and distinctly claim the subject matter to which the applicants regard as their invention, and in order to correct certain informalities therein, including those pointed out by the Examiner..

Accordingly, the withdrawal of the outstanding indefiniteness rejection under 35 USC §112, second paragraph, is in order, and is therefore respectfully solicited.

In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, claims, as amended, are in condition for allowance, which action, at an early date, is requested.

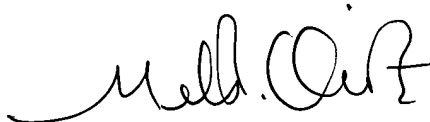
If, for any reason, it is felt that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the applicants' undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

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In the event that this paper is not timely filed, the applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fees for such an extension of time and any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper to Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

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